

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG

SUBJECT: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION

REF: STATE 074425

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO SEE RESPONSIBLE DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES AT UNGA SS, OR IN ANY OTHER NON-SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATING FORA. ZAIRE CERTAINLY WILL NOT STRAY VERY FAR FROM LDC RHETORIC IN PUBLIC. BUT WE COULD MAKE SOME HEADWAY IN BI-LATERAL TALKS AIMED AT COPPER PRICE STABLIZATION AND THROUGH OTHER INITIATIVES ON COFFEE AND COBALT. LASTLY,THERE ARE CRACKS BETWEEN THE OIL PRODUCERS AND THEIR POORER COUSINS. WE SHALL BE ALERT TO A WIDENING OF THE GAP, AS WELL AS TO OTHER POTENTIAL DIVISIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN OUR OPINION, CHANCES FOR A RESONSIBLE DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES IN CONTEXT OF UNGA SS ARE PRACTICALLY NIL. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES
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OF GREAT CONCERN TO ZAIRE WORTHY OF RATIONAL DISCUSSION.

RATHER IT IS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS THE WRONG FORUM FOR RATIONAL DISCUSSION. IT IS VIEWED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A POLITICAL FORUM. IN OUR JUDGMENT NO ONE DEVELOPING COUNTRY, CERTAINLY NOT ZAIRE, CAN AFFORD TO STRAY VERY FAR FROM THE COMMON LDC LINE AND THE NATURE OF THE UN FORUM GIVES THE RADICALS EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP THE COMMON LINE FAR FROM ANYTHING APPROCHING REASON BY OUR STANDARDS. THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT THE POLITICAL UNITY OF THE LDC NON-ALIGNED WORLD IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO ZAIRE, IN PUBLIC AT LEAST, THAN THEIR SUBSTANTIVE INTERESTS. THE ZAIRIANS, LIKE OTHERS, WILL USE THE ASSEMBLY TO ORCHESTRATE A MOOD AND TONE WHICH PRESUMABLY THEY THINK WILL ENCOURAGE THE DC'S TO MAKE REAL CONCESSIONS IN OTHER FORA WHERE THEIR SUBSTANTIVE INTERESTS ARE INDEED SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

3. IN ZAIRE'S CASE, MOBUTU'S AMBITION AND GROWING REPUTATION AS A THIRD WORLD LEADER, AS WELL AS HIS PUBLIC POSITION WHICH HAS CALLED FOR A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, INEVITABLY WILL COMBINE TO FORCE THE GOZ DELEGATION TO SPOUT LDC RHETORIC. AND THIS IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT ZAIRE'S REAL INTERESTS CALL FOR RESPONSIBLE DIALOUGE WITH ITS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, RATHER THAN THIRD WORLD POSTURING, THORETICALLY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPLIT OFF ZIARE, AND OTHER KEY LDCS, FROM "ROVOLUTIONARY" MAINSTREAM BY HOLDING OUT THE PROMISE OF PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THEM. PRACTICALLY, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO THIS IN LARGE MULTILATERAL GROUPS, AT LEAST IN THE TIME FRAME UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. WHILE WECANNOT REALLY HOPE FOR GREATLY IMPROVED UN BEHAVIOR, WE HAVE EVERY INTERST IN STRENGTHENING ZAIRIAN PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE DEVELOPED WORLD. WE SHOULD SEEK, THEREFORE, TO FIND NEW WAYS TO PROMOTE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION PRICE STABILIZATION FOR SOME IMPORTANT RAW MATERIALS, AS DISTINCT FROM NEGOTIATED PICE AND SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS INTENDED TO RESULT IN A NET TRANSFER OF REAL RESOURCES, IS AN AREA FOR SERIOUS EXPLORATION THERE
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WOULD BE ADVANTAGES TO CONSUMERS AS WELL AS TO PRODUCERS WERE WE ABLE TO ATTENUATE WILD SWINGS IN SOME COMMODITY PRICES. IN ADDITION, EVENTUAL MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S NEW COMMODITY INCOME COMPENSATORY SCHEME WOULD BE WORTH OF EXAMINATION.

5. AS FAR AS ZAIRE IS CONCERNED, PRICE IS THAT OF COPPER, AND CURRENT FINANCIL CRISIS HERE RENDERS BOTH

PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY URGENT. A YEAR OR TWO FROM NOW, WHEN THE COPPER PRICE MOVES BACK UP ON ITS OWN, THE ZAIRIANS WILL NOT BE SO INTERESTED IN DEALS. MOREOVER, IF CIPEC OBTAINS, AS THEY ARE SEEKING, OPEC FINANCING FOR COPPER PRICE MAINTENANCE, WE CAN EXPECT CARTEL PRICES RATHER THAN RATIONAL, STABILIZED PRICES OF INTEREST TO BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. WE SHOULD URGE, THEREFORE, THAT WE PROMPTLY INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO TALK HARD ABOUT COPPER. ONE WAY TO BEGIN WOULD BE TO INVITE ZOLA, WHO IS PRESIDENT'S TOP COPPER NEGOTIATOR AND WHO ALSO HEADED ZAIRE'S DELEGATION TO PREPARATORY PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE, TO COME TO STATES FOR BILATERAL TALKS.

6 OTHER THAN COPPER, WE SEE AN OPENING ON COFFEE IN ADDITION TO CURRENT INTERNATIONAL COFFEE NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON, WE MIGHT PURSUE TACTIC CENTERED AROUND LONG-TERM CONTRASTS BETWEEN PRIVATE US PURCHASERS OF ROBUSTA, ALLIED WITH SOME "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" TO FLOUNDERING NATIONAL COFFEE OFFICE. AND NOT LEAST, THERE IS COBALT. COULD WE NOT BRING OURSELVES TO SOME FORWARD PURCHASING OF THIS STRATEGIC MINERAL, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN FOR PROTECTION AGAINST FUTURE CARTEL?

7. WE AGREE WITH REFTEL THAT THERE ARE OTHER TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY--LIKE CRACKS BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND THEIR POORER COUSINS. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT MOBUTU IN RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW IMPLIED THAT IF ARAB FINANCIAL HELP NOT FORTHCOMING, HE MAY HAVE TO RECONSIDER HIS POLICY OF ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY. ALSO THE CONTROLLED ZAIRIAN PRESS HAS JUST THIS WEEK AGAIN URGED THE ARABS TO SELL THEIR OIL AT BARGAIN PRICES TO ZAIRE. THUS, WE PROPOSE TO BE ALERT TO A WIDENING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT GAP, AS WELL AS TO OTHER POTENTIAL DIVISIONS.

8. WE THINK THAT THE ACTIONS ON COPPER, COFFEE, AND COBALT SUGGESTED HEREIN WOULD SERVE BOTH OUR REAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND OUR BILATERAL POLITICAL INTERESTS. WE REPEAT, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE UN AND OTHER NON-SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATING FORA WE SHOULD EXPECT GOZ TO CONTINUE TO PUSH HARD POLITICAL LINE OF SO-CALLED ALLIANCE OF THE OPPRESSED. IN FACT, THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF COUNTRIES LIKE ZAIRE ARE SO GREAT THAT WHAT WHATEVER WE DO, IT WILL BE VIEWED HERE AS INSUFFICIENT. THAT, HOWEVER, IS NO REASON NOT TO TRY TO DO BETTER; AND WE COULD EVEN BE WRONG ABOUT OUR JUDGMENT OF THE POLITICAL EFFECTS IN THE UN HINTON

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